

DRAFT

**THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
16TH MEETING
SUMMARY**

Friday, December 13, 2002

Prepared by:

The Department of Natural Resources

Office of Conservation

Ground Water Management Staff

Call to Order

Commission members in attendance:

Hall Bohlinger, Department of Environmental Quality

Jim Welsh, Department of Natural Resources

William “Bill” Cefalu, Police Jury Association

Richard Durrett, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Karen Gautreaux, Governor’s Designee

Dean Lowe, Department of Health and Hospitals

John Roussel, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Michael Taylor, Department of Economic Development

Linda Zaunbrecher, Farm Bureau Member

Bo Bolourchi, Department of Transportation and Development

George Cardwell, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District

Len Bahr, Governor’s Office on Coastal Activities

Ground Water Management Staff Activities

The Office of Conservation continues to receive Water Well Information Sheets. A total was not available for this meeting.

Written comments regarding the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District’s application for a critical groundwater area designation will be accepted with

a postmark of December 19, 2002. The court reporter is waiting for all comments before the transcript is delivered to the staff.

The usual items were posted to the web-site including the transcript and summary of the November 22 meeting. The staff spent most of their time preparing the *Statewide Water Management Program – a Plan for Implementation*.

Consideration of C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates Part II

The document by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates, *Assistance in Developing a Statewide Water Management Plan – Contract # 2215-02-01* is the background for the Commission to present a water management plan to the Legislature. The staff recommended acceptance of Part II of the Fenstermaker report. The Commission recommended expanding the subject of surface water and to reference Coastal Restoration.

The motion to accept the report with revisions passed unanimously.

Update on Advisory Task Force Activities

The Advisory Task Force met earlier in the day to review the *Statewide Water Management Program – a Plan for Implementation*.

The Agriculture Committee voiced concerns and made recommendations to include:

1. a more detailed structural model referencing the C. H. Fenstermaker report Type II administrative model,
2. omit B, eliminate general permits and increase the individual permit to 100,000 gallons,
3. and correlative rights need to be more specific and include new users.

The Industrial Committee would not endorse the plan as written and recommended the following:

1. prefer to omit permitting and recommended registration only of wells,
2. use existing staff,
3. reflect the contractor's Preference Feasibility Analysis in the plan,
4. incentive area is important to the industrial users,
5. and strongly recommend not rushing the plan as written.

Old Business: Discussion of the draft, *Statewide Water Management Program – a Plan for Implementation.*

The Advisory Task Force recommended the following revisions to the plan:

Executive Summary

Second paragraph

Change the first sentence to read “...recommended that the delineation of subterranean waters as a mineral...”

Third paragraph

Change the first sentence to read “... adequately examine the details of the legal status of subterranean water, permitting of wells, incentive programs...”

Implementation Recommendations

Item

Comment

1. Change to read “That the legislature affirm the legal status of subterranean water as a mineral under the Mineral Code. The Commission and Advisory Task Force will continue to work on details associated with the legal status of water.”
2. Ending paragraph, change to read “... their continued sustainability and shall promote education and implementation of conservation measures.”
3. Change (b) to read “That the state be divided into three regions for programmatic administration purposes, and five regional water resource districts to enable local input into the management of specific aquifer systems.”
4. Take out everything after the first sentence. Add “The Commission and Advisory Task Force will continue to work on details associated with registration and permitting.”
5. No Comment.

6. No Comment.
7. No Comment.
8. No Comment.
9. No Comment.
10. No Comment.
11. Change to read "... may be composed of the Louisiana Geological Survey and other appropriate agencies, representatives of user groups, and the public to work with the agency...".
12. No Comment.
13. No Comment.

Task Force Questions and Comments

Several Advisory Task Force members made comments regarding the implementation plan.

Commission Questions and Comments

The commission members voiced concerns regarding the plan. One comment made was to be more specific in the state and local administration/implementation.

The motion was made to add two (2) more Commissioners to the Ground Water Management Commission described in the plan. The two positions would represent industry and one member at large. The motion failed.

The Commission recommended a clearer Type 2 structure and will reconvene to provide more details on functions, roles and responsibilities. The Commission and Advisory Task Force will continue to work on the details.

The recommendation was made to add the word groundwater everywhere in the plan instead of using the word water. There was lengthy discussion of why the commission should or should not manage both ground and surface water. The recommendation to add language which implies the Water Resource Commission does not have regulatory rights and the need for more research on surface water passed unanimously.

The motion to forward the implementation plan to the legislative oversight committees as amended passed. One Commissioner abstained.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Question and Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Schedule for the next Meeting

The next meeting will be in late January.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.